

DRALE RESIGNS AS MAYOR COUNCIL ELECTS ISEN



ALBERT ISEN
... new mayor

'1st Time In City's History

In an unexpected move which caught everyone by surprise, Nick Drale announced his resignation as mayor Tuesday night. The move is unprecedented in the history of Torrance. Elected to succeed him as mayor was Councilman Albert Isen.

Drale shattered the uneventful atmosphere of Tuesday night's council meeting when he announced his resignation minutes prior to adjournment. "It has been an opinion of mine that the mayor's post is honorary and should be shared by others of the council," Mayor Drale began in a resonant, cheerful tone. "At this time I would like to pass it on to another in the spirit of the Easter season."

"I have offered the post to Councilman Benstead but he did not elect to serve."

"My job has been most easy and most pleasant. I thank all of the members of the Council, city hall officials, the other department, and all the people of Torrance for making this such a fine year."

"I feel that now is the most Christian time to do what I

(Continued on Page 6)

King Protests Closing Of Supply Depot

Congressman Cecil R. King yesterday demanded that Secretary of the Navy Charles Thomas furnish a detailed report on the order to decommission the San Pedro Naval Supply Depot on June 30 and strongly protested the move in face of the critical Far Eastern situation.

King pointed out that the San Pedro Naval Supply Depot was closed down in a similar move at the end of World War II, and later re-established to meet the Korean conflict.

The latest Navy order calls for the depot to be absorbed by the Long Beach Naval Shipyard, with dismissal of nearly half of the depot's 860 employees held likely.

"I am heartily in accord with efforts to economize," Congressman King stated, "but such economy must be done without impairment to the Fleet and the defense of our country."

King told the Navy Secretary that with the critical situation in Formosa and the Far East, "this is not the time to decommission an important supply facility on the West Coast."

TORRANCE PRESS

The Largest Circulation Newspaper in Torrance 1406 Cravens Ave., FA. 8-2345

VOLUME VI

THURSDAY, APRIL 7, 1955 — TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA

10¢

Seaman Arrested for Possessing Heroin

A 28-year-old Harbor City seaman, blind in one eye, was arrested for possessing narcotics Saturday afternoon at 1st st. and Centre in San Pedro.

Booked by San Pedro police was Thomas O. Jones, 28, of 25624 Marigold, Harbor City.

Officers found one gelatin capsule containing a white powder believed to be heroin on Jones when they arrested him in his car.

"Yeah, that cap you found contains stuff," Jones allegedly told officers. "I just bought it from a guy on the corner of 1st and Gaffey for \$5. . . . I don't use the stuff regularly. I just horn it now and then. I would rather have had some pot (marijuana) if I could have found some."

Lead Slug Misses Baby Crib

Missing a baby crib by inches, a heavy lead slug apparently fired by a slingshot came crashing through the screen and window of a bedroom at 1813 Cabrillo early Monday morning.

Luckily Mrs. Barbara Decker and her two children, Denise, 7 months, and Sandra, 5 years, were in the next room when the slug, the size of a silver dollar, landed in the bedroom.

Mrs. Decker, called her husband, Dennis, from work right away. Decker called Torrance police. Officer T. Pattishall figured that the slug was fired from a slingshot.

LATE NEWS

CIVIC GROUP: Pacific Hills Homeowners association will hear Mike Ramirez and Arlen Charter speak on "Little League Baseball" Monday, April 11, at 7:30 p.m. in the WALTERIA elementary school.

PENSION: The City Council asked the city attorney to investigate the possibility of a pension for City Clerk A. H. Bartlett. Bartlett has served the city 33 years. He is now recovering from a recent operation. The move was initiated by Mayor Nick Drale and concurred in by the rest of the council.

MORTUARY: An attempt by an opponent to the Halverson mortuary now under construction to get an injunction to halt construction was denied without appeal. The legality of the variance granted the mortuary has been placed before the California Supreme Court.

NATIONAL ON TV: Friday "Success Story" viewers will have a look inside the largest completely integrated machinery plant in the west—that of National Supply Company in Torrance.

Work Starts On Alondra Park Signal

County road crews have begun the remodeling of the Redondo Beach boulevard entrance to Alondra park so that traffic control signals can be installed at Redondo Beach and Yukon avenue to provide maximum traffic safety, Supervisor Kenneth Hahn announced today.

Entrance to the park will be located in line with Yukon so pedestrians and motorists can cross Redondo Beach directly into the park, Supervisor Hahn said.

This, along with the installation of semi-actuated traffic signals, with push-buttons for pedestrians, should provide additional safety, especially during the spring and summer months when the swimming pool at Alondra is in operation, Supervisor Hahn said.

Work schedule calls for the concrete work, which includes construction of curb return and cross gutter at the intersection and realignment of portions of the curbs in the park, to be completed early next week.

The entire job should be completed by the end of April, with the traffic signals scheduled to be tested and in operation by that time, Supervisor Hahn said.

Pilot's Leg Broken By Plane Prop

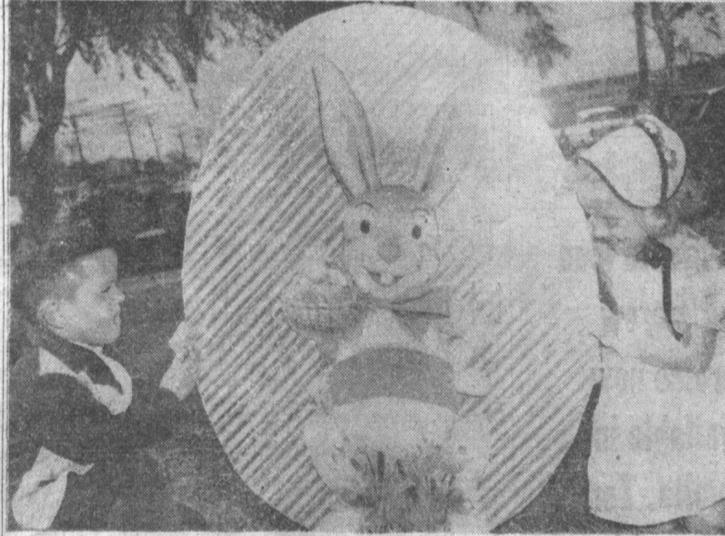
Struck by the propeller of his plane as he was pulling it through prior to the take off, Walter B. Ellis, 36, of 25714 Crest Rd., Torrance, suffered a broken left leg and two severe cuts.

Following emergency treatment Sunday at Harbor General hospital, Ellis was taken to Torrance Memorial hospital. He is expected to return home this week.

Ellis' wife was sitting in the plane when the accident happened. The two were planning to take off for a pleasure cruise in their Stinson from Torrance airport.

In Germany

Pvt. Noel P. Mandig, 21, son of Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Mandig, 25330 Woodward, Lomita, recently arrived in Germany and is now a member of the 9th Infantry Division.



IT'S EASTER BUNNY TIME . . . Mike Gilbert, 4, of 2065 W. 162nd st., Torrance, and Kathy Bry, 4, of 2060 W. 161st st., Torrance will be among the youngsters to participate in the Easter egg hunt to be held Saturday at 10 a.m.

in El Prado park, in downtown Torrance (El Prado corner Cravens ave.). A total of 900 chocolate eggs and 100 silver dollars will be given away.

Kids To Hunt Easter Eggs, Silver Dollars

An All-City Easter Egg Hunt will be held in El Prado Park Saturday morning, April 9. The hunt will start at 10 a.m. sharp on El Prado, between Cravens avenue and Arlington avenue in downtown Torrance.

The Torrance Downtown Business Men's Association and the Torrance Recreation Department are co-sponsoring the hunt.

In addition to the 100 silver dollars, the Torrance Businessmen have given the Easter bunny over 900 chocolate eggs and special Easter baskets to hide.

11 Words --- And Away It Went

Audrey Bushong of 18904 Yukon converted his convertible into cash fast—and was happy!

"I could have sold a hundred of them," he beamed. Wanting to sell his 1941 Chevrolet, Bushong placed the following small, inexpensive ad in the Torrance Press classified section:

FOR SALE—1941 Chevrolet convertible. Good running condition. Three good. \$50. 18904 Yukon.

It's an old familiar story that Torrance Press classified advertisers get instant results.

Placing an ad is such a simple matter. Just call FA. 8-2345 and have a friendly classified salesgirl help you word your fast-action ad just right.

"We'll help you keep the wording down to a minimum. Fifteen words cost only \$1.00. It takes so little to gain so much!"

COUNCIL BRIEFS

SAND AND GRAVEL: Torrance Sand and Gravel company requested permission to operate a new concrete mixing plant which would not create obnoxious noises or dust. This cannot be done without obtaining a variance, the Council decided.

"RAT HARBOR": The old site of the Torrance Paper Products company at 213th street and Cabrillo has now been completely cleaned up, Councilman Albert Isen reported. He credited Thomas Gibson of the L. A. County Health Department with the achievement.

WOOD SCHOOL: Ralph Perkins, street superintendent, has been instructed to look into the street situation around the Wood School in order to make the area safer for children. The area lacks sidewalks.

MUNICIPAL COURT: A resolution asking for a municipal court for Torrance was approved. The resolution will be sent to the Board of Supervisors which must now take steps to declare this area a municipal court district.

RESIGNATION: Cy Weber, city license inspector, submitted his resignation effective April 10. (Continued on Page 10)

Father of 5 Arrested For Illicit Relations With Baby Sitter, 16

A 26-year-old father of five was arrested early Monday morning for having had illicit relations with a 16-year-old Lomita girl working for the family as baby sitter and housekeeper for the last three months.

Booked by San Pedro police on charges of statutory rape was Herbert Robinson, 26, of 25652 Marigold ave., Harbor City.

Robinson's wife, Beverly, notified San Pedro police at around 4 a.m. Monday morning that she had just discovered that her husband and the girl had been intimate when she walked into the girl's bedroom.

Robinson told police that the girl had been staying in his home for about three months.

"There wasn't room for her to stay with her father so she came to live with us."

Denies Intimacy

He denied ever having been intimate with the girl, although she claimed that they had been intimate at least 12 times.

"She's just saying that so I'll divorce my wife and marry her," Robinson allegedly told police. "She said she would take care of my five kids if I divorce my wife."

"I have been staying with the Robinsons taking care of their children, and helping with the housework three months," the girl told police. "Mrs. Robinson doesn't take care of their (Continued on Page 10)

BLOW, COUNTER-BLOW

Annexation Forces Pull Fast One On Each Other

Working stealthily and striking with lightning speed, the two warring camps in the 6500-acre annexation move caught each other by surprise and were sent reeling by a major move and counter-move within a period of one week.

Only a week ago Wednesday Great Lakes officials quietly submitted a new annexation plan to the Torrance Planning Commission. In a hurriedly called special meeting the following afternoon, the Torrance City Council passed a resolution approving the plan.

LATE BULLETIN: "As far as we're concerned our action takes precedence over PV's move," Ivar Hanson of Great Lakes told the Torrance Press. "The PV resolution involves an additional 2,000 ft. south of the original strip. We will not know the exact boundaries till Thursday."

A new approach was necessary if the annexation of 6500 acres of land in the Rolling Hills area to Torrance is to become a reality. A previous plan was discovered to be illegal.

Quiet PV Counter-Move In the meantime it was learned by the Torrance Press that Palos Verdes City Council Tuesday night passed a resolution. (Continued on Page 6)

PAIR PLEADS INNOCENT TO BOOKMAKING

Judson Alsop, 38, and his wife, Margaret, 34, of Hermosa, pleaded innocent last week to charges of bookmaking. The Alsops were arrested February 15 at the home of Mrs. Laurine Trimble, 38, 25225 Denny road, WALTERIA.

Mrs. Trimble, whose home was allegedly being used for bookmaking purposes, was arrested on the same charge. Mrs. Trimble stated that she had told the Alsops to move out the moment she found out what they were using her home for.

A motion to dismiss the charge against Mrs. Trimble for lack of sufficient evidence has been entered. The request will be heard April 8.

Nab Man For Child Molesting

Admitting that he molested a 14-year-old Lomita youth, Floyd S. Allen, 36, of 1012 South Palos Verdes, San Pedro, was arrested on a charge of child molesting Saturday afternoon.

Allen, an ex-con, was picked up at Western and Sepulveda by San Pedro Police Officers Robert M. Jones and Keith R. Mayo.

Allen said that he offered the youngster \$5 if he went with him to a movie and \$10 if he would come and clean up his apartment.

The suspect said he had picked the youngster up hitchhiking. Having found out where he worked, he went to see him again a few days later.

According to the youngster, Allen made a date to see him and take him to a movie. Police were notified of the incident, and Allen was arrested at the time of the appointment.

Allen, now on parole, served eight years in San Quentin "for crime against nature and child molesting," according to police records.

Ingram Resigns

Emmett Ingram, business manager for the Torrance Unified School District for eight years, submitted his resignation to the Board of Education Tuesday night.

Ingram has purchased a Los Angeles firm which manufactures office, school, and church furniture. The company has been established 16 years.

Ingram's resignation will be effective June 30.

Norma Condon Wins "Mrs. Torrance" Title

Asked how she felt to have been chosen "Mrs. Torrance" recently, charming Mrs. Norma J. Condon exclaimed "it feels exciting!" Selected from a group of 21 women, Mrs. Condon received the title and was officially nominated to represent her city in the National Mrs. America Contest.

The contest was sponsored by the Torrance Chamber of Commerce, Paul Diamond, chairman, and by the Southern California Gas Company, who presented the company winner with a silver compote trophy marked with the official seal of the Mrs. America Contest.

Mrs. Condon, who has lived in Torrance for 16 years, is married to Marshall Condon, a meat cutter for the Greater Central Market in Bellflower. The Condons have three children, Roger, 8, Susan, 6, and Marty, 4. The family lives at 20931 Halldale avenue, and Mrs. Condon is active in the Halldale P.T.A., is a member of the P.T.A. (Continued on Page 10)



"MRS. TORRANCE" . . . Receiving trophy from Mrs. Ester Millar, left, member of judging panel, is Mrs. Norma J. Condon who was selected as best Torrance homemaker from a group of 21 local contestants in the National

Mrs. America contest, and at right Paul Diamond, chairman of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce. The contest was sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce and the Southern California Gas Co.



MORE PARKING AREA . . . Two new parking lots were made available this week to facilitate downtown shopping. One is located next to the American Legion on Border ave. north of

Torrance Blvd. The above is located on Sartori north of Torrance Blvd. The lots were leased to the city for \$1 a year by George Binder.

Easter Egg Hunt At El Prado Park Sat., 10 a.m.